

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 02070 212051Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 EB-07 SS-15 SP-02 XMB-02
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 PRS-01 TRSE-00
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O 212045Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 980

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 2070

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECON, ETRD, TD, US

SUBJECT: BILATERAL ECONOMIC DISCUSSIONS WITH TRINIDAD
AND TOBAGO.

REF: (A) STATE 170054

(B) STATE 166516

1. DURING MY INTRODUCTORY CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER DONALDSON TODAY (JUNE 21), I INFORMED HIM OF USG WILLINGNESS TO SEND TEAM TO TRINIDAD IN EARLY AUGUST TO PURUSE DIALOGUE ON ECONOMIC MATTERS INITIATED AT TIME OF SECRETARY'S VISIT HERE. THE SECRETARY'S POSITIVE RESPONSE (REF B) TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S LETTER HAD BEEN DELIVERED ON JULY 18 AND DONALDSON WAS AWARE OF THAT LETTER AS WELL.

2. DONALDSON INDICATED HIS GREAT PLEASURE AT THE USG ACCEPTANCE, BUT ASKED THAT IF POSSIBLE THE TEAM FROM WASHINGTON ARRIVED ON AUGUST 2 FOR THE TALKS ON AUGUST 3 AND 4. THIS IS ONE DAY LATER THAN PROPOSED IN REF A, BUT DONALDSON POINTED OUT THAT SECOND NEW DOUGLAS DC-9 FOR BWIA ARRIVES FROM CALIFORNIA ON AFTERNOON OF AUGUST 2 AND THIS WAS SCHEDULED AS MAJOR OCCASION IN WHICH KEY CABINET MEMBERS WOULD BE INVOLVED.

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BECAUSE OF AFTERNOON TRAFFIC CONGESTION, AND TRAVEL TIME TO THE AIRPORT, IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO HOLD TALKS ON AFTERNOON OF THE SECOND. HOPEFULLY, USG TEAM COULD ARRIVE EARLY ENOUGH ON AUGUST 2 TO PARTICIPATE IN DC-9 OCCASION (LATE AFTERNOON), SINCE THIS WOULD BE APPROPRIATE KICKOFF FOR SUBSTANTIVE ECONOMIC DIALOGUE. I PROMISED TO CONVEY THIS COUNTER PROPOSAL TO WASHINGTON

FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. ALTHOUGH I DID NOT GIVE THE MINISTER ANY DETAILED INFORMATION ON THE PROPOSED COMPOSITION OF OUR TEAM, HE DID EXPRESS SPECIFIC INTEREST IN EXIMBANK PARTICIPATION SO WE HOPE EXIM WILL DEFINITELY BE INCLUDED. FROM OTHER SOURCES WE GATHER PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS HAS SOMEHOW OBTAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT WE ARE TRYING (THROUGH EXIM PERHAPS) TO PUT ROADBLOCKS IN THE WAY OF THE PROPOSED IRON AND STEEL PLANT HERE. WE WILL NEED TO DISABUSE HIM OF THIS MISAPPREHENSION.

4. I AM SEEING THE PRIME MINISTER FRIDAY (JULY 22) AND WILL EXPLORE THESE THOUGHTS FURTHER WITH HIM AT THAT TIME.
FOX

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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